

REMARKS

Applicant's representative expresses appreciation for the interview conducted on December 12. The amendments made by this response and the remarks are consistent with that which was discussed during the interview.

The Non-Final Office Action, mailed November 14, 2008, considered claims 1-11, 14, 19, 21-23, 25 and 26. Claims 1-11, 14, 19, 21-23 and 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by Aronson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,654,787), in view of Paul (U.S. Patent No. 6,230,156), and further in view of Hussey (U.S. Patent No. 6,230,156). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by Aronson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,654,787), in view of Paul (U.S. Patent No. 6,230,156), in view of Hussey (U.S. Patent No. 6,230,156), and further in view of Koponen et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0235503).

By this response, claims 1, 4-9, 14, 19, 22, 23, 25, and 26 are amended, while claims 10, 11, and 21 are canceled. Claims 1-9, 14, 19, 22, 23, 25, and 26 remain pending of which claims 1, 14, and 23 are independent.

The present invention is generally directed towards embodiments for filtering messages received by an inbox program by leveraging the existing message-handling architecture of a computer device, thus allowing messages to be sent to applications *other than the inbox program*. A rule client registers to receive messages by registering a DLL in the system registry as a COM object. In this way, the rule client is loaded in the inbox program's process space when a message is received, thus eliminating the need for special logic to determine what application is loading the rule client. *See Spec. pgs. 11-12.*

When the inbox program receives a message, it may flag the message. The inbox program calls a create message function which passes the message with the flag to the message storing component. This flag indicates to the message storing component that it should pass the message to the rule clients rather than storing the message directly in the message inbox (where it would be seen by the user). By doing this, messages that are intended for applications rather than a user may be filtered out. The rule clients may extract information from the message and provide the information to an application program that is distinct from the inbox program (such as a chess program, *see Spec. pg. 17*). The rule client may then indicate whether the inbox program should discard the message (so that

no other rule client may handle it, and so that the user never sees it), or allow the message to pass to subsequent rule clients. Each of the independent claims contains limitations as just described with claim 1 being drawn to a method, claim 14 to memory storing computer executable instructions, and claim 23 to a system.

By this response, the independent claims have been amended to further define that a plurality of rule clients are registered to receive messages, and that this plurality includes at least one rule client that requests read only access and at least one rule client that requests write access. When a message is received, a copy of the message is first sent to the read only rule client. After the read only rule client processes the copy of the message, the copy is discarded thus ensuring the read only aspect. Next, the original message is provided to a second rule client that is registered for write access. Claim 23 has further been amended to describe in greater detail how a rule client registers to receive messages by adding the name of its DLL to a system registry entry that corresponds to the SMS transport. By doing so, the rule client will be called whenever an SMS message is received. An added benefit of registering the DLL in the system registry is that the DLL is loaded in the inbox's processing space. As a result, the existing inbox architecture may be used to process messages thus not requiring custom mechanisms. *See Spec. pg. 2, lines 16-19.*

Objection to the Specification

The specification was objected to because it does not define computer-readable medium as is claimed in claim 14. Claim 14 has been amended to recite memory rather than computer-readable medium as is disclosed on page 7 of the specification.

Prior Art Rejections

Each of the claims was rejected over the cited references as detailed above. In view of the current amendments however, Applicant submits that these references fail to teach or suggest each limitation of the independent claims.

Initially, it is noted that each of Aronson, Paul, and Hussey are directed to email applications. In each of these references the email messages are sent to an email inbox directly and are not intended to be intercepted prior to being stored in the inbox and sent to an application that is distinct from the inbox program. *See, e.g.* Aronson, Col. 4, lines 17-44 (stating that emails are filtered *after* they have been stored in an inbox but before being downloaded to the client where they are stored in an inbox on

the client device); Paul, Col. 2, lines 2-19 (stating that emails are processed when received to mark them (such as OK, NEW, JUNK) and are stored and then displayed using the mark); Hussey, Cols. 6-7 (stating that requests to a server, such as an SQL request, are sent over email; the emails are stored in an inbox for later processing but are not filtered prior to being stored in the inbox). In the present invention, the messages are filtered by the rule clients to provide information to other applications such as stock quote or gaming applications. Therefore, these references fail to teach or suggest the main aspects of the claim such as providing a received message to a rule client which processes the message and passes information to an application program that is distinct from the inbox program.

Additionally, none of these references discloses that a copy of the message is provided first to a read only rule client and then the original message is provided to a write access rule client. For example, in both the Aronson and Paul references, the intent is to determine whether the email message should be stored in the inbox rather than to determine whether information from the message should be provided to another application prior to the message being discarded or passed on to another rule client. In Hussey, on the other hand, although the email message contains data that is used to submit an SQL query to a database server, each email message is stored in the inbox prior to being processed. Further, these queries are sent to the same server. Therefore, Hussey does not disclose anything similar to a rule client for filtering messages.

Further, Hussey was cited as teaching the DLL aspect of the claim. However, the DLL in Hussey corresponds to the email processor which is used by the SQL server to provide an interface for converting the email messages into SQL procedures. See Col. 7. In essence, this email processor DLL acts as an email application. As such, it is not the same as a DLL which is registered in the system registry to be loaded in the inbox application's process space. Again, it is noted that one benefit of the present invention is to allow the receipt of messages bound for other applications using existing inbox programs so that new programs do not have to be installed on a mobile computing device. Hussey, and the remaining references, specifically fail to teach or suggest: "wherein the plurality of rule clients register by registering a dynamic-link library in a system registry as a component object model object such that each rule client is loaded when the inbox program receives the message, each rule client being loaded in the inbox program's process space." To the contrary, in

order to receive an email message in Hussey, the DLL would have to be loaded to provide the email interface for the SQL server.

Finally, Koponen was only cited as teaching SMS messages. Koponen only relates to the grouping and routing of SMS messages from a gateway to a mobile device, but does not address the filtering of messages when they are received at the mobile device. Therefore, the combination of Aronson, Paul, Hussey, and Koponen fails to teach or suggest each limitation of the independent claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all the rejections to the independent claims are now moot and that the independent claims are now allowable over the cited art, such that any of the remaining rejections and assertions made, particularly with respect to all of the dependent claims, do not need to be addressed individually at this time. It will be appreciated, however, that this should not be construed as Applicant acquiescing to any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action regarding the cited art or the pending application, including any official notice, and particularly with regard to the dependent claims.¹

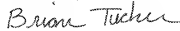
In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at 801-533-9800.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any of the following fees that may be applicable to this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-3178: (1) any filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16; and/or (2) any patent application and reexamination processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17; and/or (3) any post issuance fees under 37 CFR § 1.20. In addition, if any additional extension of time is required, which has not otherwise been requested, please consider this a petition therefore and charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-3178.

¹ Instead, Applicant reserves the right to challenge any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action at any appropriate time in the future, should the need arise. Furthermore, to the extent that the Examiner has relied on any Official Notice, explicitly or implicitly, Applicant specifically requests that the Examiner provide references supporting any official notice taken. Furthermore, although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicant reserves the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

Dated this 13th day of February, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Tucker".

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